

We Are Ahead of the Curve!

Along the shoreline of Gary’s Marquette Park you can see the 22 Water Safety Stations that have been in place for five (5) years along Lake Michigan and the Lagoon. This initiative became a reality in 2017, due to the efforts of the Water Safety Social group and Friends of Marquette Park who raise the funds for each station. The equipment includes a sign that explains how to use the safety ring, a 50-foot floatable rope tied to the ring, and a life jacket for the rescuer. This would not have happened without the leadership of Mary Ann Best and Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium. Thank you!

In 2022, the State of Illinois passed a law requiring safety equipment to be placed along the Lake Michigan lake front.

In 2023, the State of Indiana Senate passed a similar bill, SB 424.

As of March, 2023, IN SB 424: “Requires the owner of a pier or public access site on Lake Michigan to install public rescue equipment, including at least one ring life buoy, on the pier or public access site. Establishes requirements concerning ring life buoys installed on piers and public access sites. Provides that the end of the buoy line must not be secured to the shore. Requires a unit of local government that owns one or more piers or public access sites on Lake Michigan, at least twice per year, to publish on the unit's website a report on lakefront drownings that occur within 50 feet of the unit's piers or public access sites. Provides that if more than one fatal drowning occurs not more than 50 feet from a particular pier or public access site in a span of five years, the owner of the pier or public access site: (1) disseminate in the area of the pier or public access site a water safety plan pertaining to the pier or public access site; and (2) upgrade the public rescue equipment installed on the pier or public access site, such as by installing equipment that automatically contacts the local 911 service in an emergency.”

It is now in the hands of the Indiana House where revisions may be made.

This Bill does not require a life jacket but does allow communities to add additional equipment as they see benefits the safety of beach goers. The life jackets will remain in Miller with your support. They are the key to the safety of the selfless rescuer!

We are having an impact on water safety that is supported by our legislators. The initiatives of WSS and FMP are recognized by the State of Indiana. FMP wrote a

letter of support to the co-authors of SB 424, Senators Rodney Pol Jr. and Michael Bohacek.

We ARE making a difference!

Thank you to all the sponsors that made this possible in Miller starting in 2017!

See WS Station Sponsors on page 3.



Disc Golf Phase 2 - Let's Play!

The tee signs are installed to help you navigate the course. All winter we have seen people out there in the park playing! But now that spring is on the way, we anticipate to see the numbers increase.

This spring the turf tees will be installed. FMP researched a variety of tee pads and selected to go with artificial turf. This surface is more environmentally friendly than concrete and visually more appealing. Additional considerations were ability to relocate, if need be, and maintenance.

A new sign at the entry to the course will be installed - showing the full course map. The entry to the course, to get to the first hole, is on the south side of Marquette Park along Marquette Drive. Be sure to feed the meter when the meters are turned on!

What will June bring? Watch for a mid week tournament and a disc golf clinic!

We are anticipating a Miller Beach group for “meet-up-style” disc golf nights throughout the summer. Watch for updates on the Miller Beach FB, FMP FB pages and on Next Door. **Disc Golf Tournament is September 16, 2023.**

Would you, your business, or organization like to sponsor a Disc Golf Hole? **A two-year Disc Golf Sponsorship is \$500.** Sponsor recognition will be posted on a tee sign.

See Disc Golf Tee Sponsors on page 3.



Perfect for Chilly Days

Our FMP full-zip hoodies are ready for purchase. Help us spread word by wearing our hoodies. Help support Friends of Marquette Park. The Ecosmart fabric is made with recycled plastic, is soft and warm, yet lightweight sweatshirt material. Perfect for disc golf days.

We have Adult sizes:

Small, Medium, Large and X-Large \$45.00

XXLarge \$50.00

Color: Navy Blue

Contact Susan Cohen at suridgeco@aol.com, (219) 689-5551
or visit Lake Street Gallery to purchase a hoodie.



Water Safety Station Sponsors since 2017

Scott King Group
The Rooney Family
The Okumaura Family
Rebecca Wyatt and Vallarie Koklodzje
Pedone and Voss Families
Diane Kania and Friends FurEver
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Ripley St Group: Tracy Braun, The Engel Family, John
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St Mary's of the Lake Outreach
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Joyce Davis, Lake Street Gallery
Barbara deRamona
Mike Szromba, Windy City Kite Sports

Water Safety Social News

We need your help! The Water Safety Social Group is a community-based volunteer group that focuses its efforts on education and programming to promote water safety in Lake Michigan year-round. Our target audience is residents and visitors to the community. We spread our message through many channels including by hosting social gatherings within the community and providing programming events. We are looking for people willing to host a social event and invite their family and friends to share the safety message. Events can be held at your home or a non-profit space. As the host you can identify a specific topic and or we can provide an expert to talk about best practices.

We are also looking for volunteers who are willing to monitor a safety station. If you've walked the beach you've seen the life rings and vests hanging on the posts. These safety stations need attention. You probably pass the one on your street often. You can alert us when the gear needs to be refreshed either because it is missing or worn out. Often the rope needs to be untangled or the ring or best rehung. Occasionally they need to be relocated entirely due to the dunes drifting or eroding. If you are interested in adopting a station let us know. Please contact Paula Rooney at watersafetysocial@gmail.com.

Disc Golf Tee Sponsors

Gene and Judy Ayers, Ayers Realtors
Ian Boyle, Miller Disc Golf League
Matt and Erin Carreon
Bruce Condie
Brian DeFries
Nick Divich, Flamingo Pizza

Dana and Daryn Frank, Ricochet Tacos
Mario Guzman, UNO MAS Golf League
Mike Jesso, Cafe Borgia
Mike and Rachel Matrejek
Mike Szromba, Windy City Kite Sports
 Add your name here!

In-Kind Donors

Ian Boyle and Brian Cummings
 Disc Golf Developers

Linda Halas
 FMP Pens

George Rogge
 Annual Meeting 2022 Music

**Mark Your Calendar!
FMP Annual Meeting**

June 7, 2023, 6:00 PM, Pavilion Lounge and Patio
\$15 - RSVP at friendsofmarquettepark@gmail.com

FMP Projects

Tree Planting - Wednesday, April 26 at 9:00 AM. Friends of Marquette Park pursued replacing trees cut by power lines along Forest Avenue. We created a super committee of tree experts, City personnel, NIPSCO, MGC and FMP leaders along with residents to develop a plan for replacing trees. NIPSCO and Communi-tree will be supplying the trees, the City will be watering the trees, and volunteers will be planting 25 trees. We need you! Come help plant trees in Marquette Park. Tools will be supplied.

Public Art - Year 2 in partnership with Miller Garden Club

Public Sculpture - “Here” and “Tall Ship” sculptures will be with us for at least one more year. We will be deciding whether to renew these or lease new sculptures in 2024.

Tree Sculpture - We are considering a project where dying trees in Marquette Park are sculpted into works of art in the fall of 2023.

Bird House Action - We are seeking artists to be creative with birdhouses. Artists can acquire a bird house from Miller Garden Club at . The bird houses will then be auctioned off on a First Friday at the Nelson Algren Sound Stage in Miller. Proceeds from the auction will be used for public sculpture projects.

Sidewalk Chalk Art in the Park- July 1, 2023. A creative activity for families. Details coming soon.

Advocates for Marquette Park - We continue to attend Park Board Meetings, communicate with Public Works and Public Safety, work with the Park Department and provide “eyes on the park” to report concerns. These relationships are built on trust and hard work which help to get things done.

Friends of Marquette Park Membership/Donations

Annual Membership is \$100.

Donations of any amount are welcome.
Donations are tax deductible.

Please write checks to: Friends of Marquette Park
Mail to: FMP, PO Box 2645, Gary, IN 46403

Or

Donate online to FMP Website: www.friendsofmarquettepark.org.

Or

Donate online to Legacy Foundation: www.legacyfdn.org., click on DONATE and search for Friends of Marquette Park

Please include your email address with your donation. We communicate with our members by email. You may choose to do monthly donations.

Thank you for your interest and support of
Friends of Marquette Park

FMP Accomplishments

- Park Board Meetings attended bi-weekly
- Montgomery St./Oak Ave plants removed for visibility
- Public Art leased for 2 years, 2022-24
- Disc Golf designed and installed - Phase II
- Memorial Benches installed
- Street Lights repairs by Public Works, 5 to go
- Advocates for bridge repairs - waiting for report

Designated Gifts

You are welcome to designate your gift to be utilized toward a specific project. Designated gifts of any amount are appreciated.

___ Disc Golf Tee Sponsorship - \$500 (2-year)

___ Statue Garden Projects - \$100

___ Water Safety Station Sponsorship - \$250 (2-year)

___ Public Sculpture Donor - \$250

___ Website Sponsorship - \$250

Questions? Contact Carol at pandcsmith@comcast.net

FRIENDS OF MARQUETTE PARK LEADERS

Mary Ann Best, Susan Cohen, Linda Halas, Joe Petras, George Rogge, Tom Rooney, Carol Smith